

Washington Perspective

Behind The Scenes: April 1961 The Future of The Capital
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The Budget Bureau is in the middle of a major struggle over the reassignment of civil defense activities, which are due for heavy emphasis in the preparations for the Berlin crisis. Defense Mobilizer Frank Ellis is struggling to hold all that he can and secretary of the Army Elvis Stahr is anxious to avoid the responsibility on the Defense level but he will want a man with rank equivalent to deputy secretary and talent sufficient to mount a major program.

The new CIA building in Virginia on the banks of the Potomac is perhaps more controversial than even Cuba or the U-2 incident. Even the Biblical quotation which Director Allen Dulles has ordered for its entrance—"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"—is challenged as untrue by some critics. Others point out that the building will be too small for the whole agency and some say that the isolation will make it impossible for agents to identify cover personnel on their way to and from work.

A CIA file involved in the Cuban planning of C. J. King, is also receiving criticism for the fact that it has considerable business interests and extreme right wing connections in Latin America. Some suspect that King's influence may have been responsible for the anti-liberal factor in the preparations for the Cuban invasion and for the fact that the professional soldiers and the man who served under Batista in high rank in the invading

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Alabama liberals are concerned that the bus depot strike in Montgomery may have encouraged the conservative Democrats into increased control of the party leadership in the state. In particular the incident has blocked efforts to avoid the elimination of one of Alabama's four liberal congressmen in the re-districting by the state legislature. The four liberals are good friends but they are now eyeing each other closely in the prospect that one of their seats will disappear. The four are Robert Jones Jr., Carl Elliott, Albert Rains and Kenneth Roberts.